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(54) Title: PROCESS TO PRODUCE AROMATICS FROM CRUDE OIL

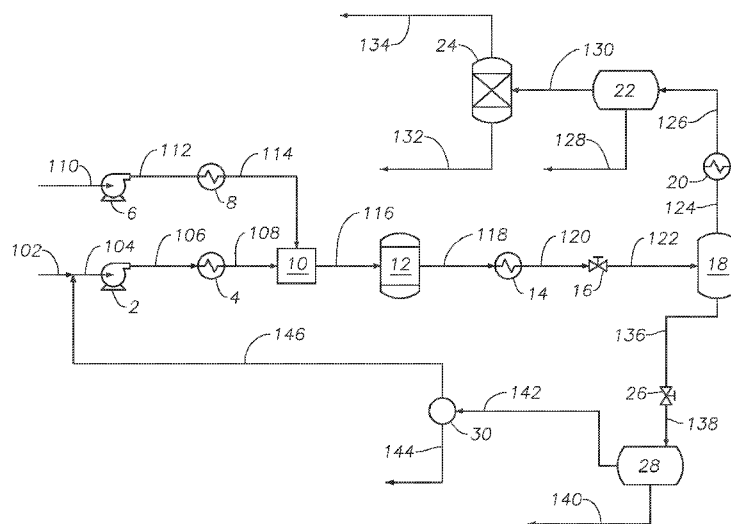


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A process for producing aromatics from a hydrocarbon source in the presence of supercritical water comprising the steps of mixing a pressurized, pre-heated water stream with a pressurized, pre-heated petroleum feedstock, the pressurized, pre-heated water stream at a pressure above the critical pressure of water and a temperature above the critical temperature of water, feeding the combined stream to a supercritical water reactor to create a modified stream, cooling and depressurizing the modified stream, separating the depressurized stream in a vapor-liquid separator, condensing the vapor stream, separating the condensed stream into a water recovery stream and a light product recovery stream, extracting the aromatics from the light product recovery stream, depressurizing the liquid stream, separating the depressurized liquid stream in a heavy separator into an upgraded product stream, and recycling part of the upgraded product stream to the pressurized, pre-heated petroleum feedstock as a product recycle.